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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 ROME 003093

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SUBJECT: REPORT OF FAO COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY
28TH SESSION

¶1. SUMMARY. THE UN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION'S COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS) MET JUNE 6-9 AND UNCLASSIFIED

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CONCLUDED NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DECLARATION FOR THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT:FIVE YEARS LATER MEETING. THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCED IT WOULD ENTER A RESERVATION ON OPERATIVE PARA 10 OF THE DECLARATION WHICH CALLS FOR NEGOTIATION OF VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD. USDEL WAS SUCCESSFUL IN ENSURING THAT THE FINAL DECLARATION LANGUAGE CONTAINS STRONG REFERENCES TO INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND SUPPORTING BIOTECHNOLOGY. TRADE WAS A PARTICULARLY NEURALGIC ISSUE AT THE CFS, WITH CRITICISMS OF THE U.S. FARM BILL HEARD FROM ALL REGIONS AND THE EU SHOWING INCREASING INFLEXIBILITY ON NEGOTIATED REFERENCES TO AGRICULTURAL TRADE. IN OTHER CFS BUSINESS, MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE UN AND THE OECD SHOULD USE THE SAME SET OF INDICATORS FOR THE MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS. THE CFS'S LACKLUSTER PERFORMANCE IS UNLIKELY TO BE IMPROVED BY ITS EXPECTED NEW RESPONSIBILITY TO OVERSEE NEGOTIATIONS ON VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD. END SUMMARY.

U.S. DELEGATION

¶2. ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 6-8, 2002, THE FAO'S COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS) STARTED INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT:FIVE YEARS LATER (WFS5YL) DECLARATION ON JUNE 4 AND ONLY CONCLUDED ITS WORK LATE ON SUNDAY, JUNE 9, LESS THAN HALF A DAY BEFORE THE SCHEDULED OPENING OF THE WFS5YL. THE U.S. DELEGATION WAS LED BY MARY CHAMBLISS, ACTING GENERAL SALES MANAGER, FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE, USDA. CAROLEE HEILEMAN, ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, U.S. MISSION TO THE UN AGENCIES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (FODAG) SERVED AS UNCLASSIFIED

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ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE. ALSO ON THE DELEGATION WERE FRANCESCA BRAVO AND RICHARD HUGHES, FAS; SETH WINNICK, ROSE BERSTEIN, AND SARAH MORRISON, STATE/IO; RALPH CUMMINGS, USAID; CHERYL CHRISTENSEN, USDA ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE; AND DAVID LAMBERT AND LUCY TAMLYN, FODAG. THE DELEGATION WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY A PRIVATE SECTOR ADVISOR, CHRISTINE VLADIMIROFF, CO-CHAIR OF THE FOOD SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON FOOD SECURITY.

CFS BUREAU

¶3. MR. ADISAK SREESUNPAGIT (THAILAND) WAS ELECTED AS CHAIR, WITH MR. NEHAD ABDEL LATIF (EGYPT); MR. MICHEL THIBIER (FRANCE); MR. KYEONG KYU KIM (REPUBLIC OF KOREA) AND MR. MASIOHULA MBONOWA (SOUTH AFRICA) AS VICE-CHAIRS FOR THE 2002-2003 BIENNIAL. CANADA REPRESENTED NORTH AMERICA ON THE CFS DRAFTING COMMITTEE.

FS5YL PREPARATORY WORK

¶4. AS THE PREPARATORY BODY FOR THE WFS5YL, THE CFS CONSIDERED AND RECOMMENDED THAT THE WFS5YL ADOPT THE DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE PROPOSED BY FAO AND THE DRAFT WFS5YL DECLARATION NEGOTIATED IN PARALLEL SESSION BY AN OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY OUTGOING CFS CHAIR AIDAN O'DRISCOLL (IRELAND) AND AMBASSADOR MARY MUCHADA (ZIMBABWE).

OVERVIEW OF THE WFS5YL DECLARATION

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¶5. THE DECLARATION RECOMMITS MEMBERS TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ORIGINAL WORLD FOOD SUMMIT DECLARATION AND PLAN OF ACTION. IT MAKES STRONG REFERENCES TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT; THE NEED TO BOOST AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY; THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND SCIENCE-BASED STANDARDS IN TRADE; THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL FEEDING

PROGRAMS; GENERATING RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT ACCORDING TO THE MONTERREY CONSENSUS APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT; AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING BIOTECHNOLOGY. IT ALSO REQUESTS THE FAO COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH A TWO-YEAR INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP TO ELABORATE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES TO SUPPORT MEMBER STATES' EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THE PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO FOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY, AND REPORT TO THE CFS. NEGOTIATION OF THE DECLARATION REQUIRED RESOLUTION OF A NUMBER OF CONTENTIOUS ISSUES. THESE ARE DISCUSSED BELOW.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST HUNGER

16. THE G-77 SOUGHT TO TITLE THE DECLARATION "INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST HUNGER" AND GIVE THE FAO

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NEW RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE "FOCAL POINT" FOR THE ALLIANCE. IT WAS AGREED TO TITLE THE DECLARATION

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"INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST HUNGER" BUT THE OPERATIVE TEXT IN THE DECLARATION MAKES CLEAR THAT THE FAO IS NOT BEING ASSIGNED NEW RESPONSIBILITIES OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY ASSIGNED TO THE CFS AS THE WFS PLAN OF ACTION MONITORING BODY.

ODA LEVELS FOR AGRICULTURE

17. THE G-77 INITIALLY SOUGHT TO STIPULATE A FIXED PERCENTAGE (20 PERCENT) TO BE ALLOCATED TO AGRICULTURE FROM ODA. THE AGREED OUTCOME SUPPORTS ONLY AN "ADEQUATE SHARE" TO BE GIVEN TO AGRICULTURE.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

18. THE EU AND NORWAY INITIALLY RESISTED U.S.-PROPOSED LANGUAGE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY WHICH URGED THE FAO TO ADVANCE RESEARCH INTO NEW TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING BIOTECHNOLOGY. DESPITE THE FACT THAT NEGOTIATED WORDING (DRAWN LARGELY FROM THE 2001 G-8 SUMMIT) FINALLY MET WITH BROAD ACCEPTANCE, NORWAY ATTEMPTED AT THE LAST MINUTE TO INSERT A REFERENCE TO THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE UNLESS THE UNITED STATES WOULD ACCEPT THE RIGHT TO FOOD CODE OF CONDUCT. THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE CHAIR, THE EU (WHICH DID NOT SUPPORT A CODE) AND THE U.S. PREVAILLED OVER NORWAY AND THE BIOTECHNOLOGY LANGUAGE WENT FORWARD WITHOUT A REFERENCE TO THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE.

CODE OF CONDUCT ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD

19. THE MAJOR NEGOTIATION IN THE DECLARATION HAD TO DO

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WITH THREE PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE RIGHT TO FOOD. THE EU PROPOSED "VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES" TO BE NEGOTIATED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. THE NORWEGIANS PROPOSED NEGOTIATION OF A "CODE OF CONDUCT" AT THE SAME VENUE. THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP SUPPORTED NEGOTIATION OF A "CODE OF CONDUCT," BUT UNDER

FAO AUSPICES. THE U.S. QUESTIONED WHETHER THE PROPOSED PRODUCT - BE IT A CODE OF CONDUCT OR VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES -- WAS A MEANINGFUL WAY TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY AND REITERATED ITS POSITION THAT THE RIGHT TO FOOD SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RIGHT TO A STANDARD OF LIVING ADEQUATE TO HEALTH AND WELL BEING, AS SET FORTH IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

¶10. THE CODE ISSUE WAS THE LAST ONE TO BE RESOLVED, AND CONSENSUS WAS ONLY REACHED (AFTER THREATS BY VENEZUELA AND NORWAY TO TAKE THE MATTER TO THE WFS5YL PLENARY) LATE IN THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 9. THE FINAL DECLARATION REQUESTS THE FAO COUNCIL TO CREATE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP TO "ELABORATE, IN A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS, A SET OF VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES TO SUPPORT MEMBER STATES' EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THE PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY." IN ADDITION TO THE SUBSTITUTION OF VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR CODE OF CONDUCT, THE FOCUS OF THE GUIDELINES WILL APPROPRIATELY BE ON NATIONAL (RATHER THAN INTERNATIONAL) ACTION. IN ADDITION, USDEL WAS ALSO SUCCESSFUL IN WALKING BACK THE PREAMBULAR LANGUAGE ON RIGHT TO FOOD TO READ "RIGHT TO ACCESS TO FOOD." THE U.S. ANNOUNCED AT THE CONCLUDING CFS PLENARY SESSION THAT IT WOULD SUBMIT A RESERVATION TO THE DECLARATION IN CONNECTION WITH
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OPERATIVE PARA 10 ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND STATED THAT THE UNITED STATES DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE ELABORATION OF SUCH GUIDELINES WOULD BE USEFUL IN REDUCING THE NUMBER OF HUNGRY OR IMPOVERISHED PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.

TRADE

¶11. TRADE LANGUAGE. THE EU (FRANCE IN PARTICULAR) AND JAPAN STRONGLY OBJECTED TO ANY REFERENCE TO "AGRICULTURAL TRADE" IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ROLE OF TRADE IN PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ALLEVIATING POVERTY. THESE COUNTRIES SOUGHT INSTEAD A REFERENCE TO "TRADE" WITHOUT ANY QUALIFIER. THE CAIRNS GROUP (PRIMARILY AUSTRALIA) TOOK THE LEAD ON THIS ISSUE; U.S.-BROKERED LANGUAGE WAS FINALLY AGREED THAT READ "INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ALLEVIATING POVERTY AND ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WFS, IN PARTICULAR IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES."

MARINE MAMMALS

¶12. BRAZIL, THE U.S. AND NEW ZEALAND STRONGLY OBJECTED

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TO PROPOSED JAPANESE LANGUAGE ON WHALES ("SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE LIVING RESOURCES BASED ON SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE
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BY RELEVANT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, PAYING DUE ATTENTION TO RATIONAL MANAGEMENT OF MARINE ECOSYSTEM AND PREVENTION OF MARINE POLLUTION."). A CONSENSUS WAS FINALLY REACHED ON USING LANGUAGE ON "SUSTAINABLE USE AND CONSERVATION OF AQUATIC LIVING RESOURCES" WHICH IS LANGUAGE AGREED AT

FROM THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED FOURTH WSSD BALI PREPCONM IN BALI.

REGULAR WORK OF THE CFS

¶13. THE CFS CONSIDERED AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE WORLD FOOD SECURITY SITUATION AND A BIANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON 1996 WORLD FOOD SUMMIT (WFS) FOLLOW-UP, INCLUDING PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE DEVELOPMENT-CENTERED COMMITMENTS OF THE WFS PLAN OF ACTION: COMMITMENT THREE- SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT; COMMITMENT FOUR - TRADE; COMMITMENT SIX - INVESTMENT AND COMMITMENT SEVEN - MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP. LESS THAN A THIRD OF THE 120 CFS MEMBER COUNTRIES REPORTED BACK ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WFS COMMITMENTS. THE CFS WILL REPORT THE GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF ITS 28TH SESSION TO THE FAO COUNCIL.

U.S. STATEMENT TO CFS

¶14. THE UNITED STATES DELIVERED STATEMENTS ADDRESSING THE TECHNICAL MERITS OF PAPERS PREPARED BY FAO AND PREVIEWING U.S. PRIORITIES FOR CUTTING HUNGER TO BE INTRODUCED AT THE WFS5YL: INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY, ENDING FAMINE, AND IMPROVING NUTRITION. THE U.S. STATEMENT
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EMPHASIZED U.S.COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING
RENEWED COMMITMENT TO AGRICULTURE AND TO FOOD SECURITY;
EXPANDED FUNDING FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
BIOTECHNOLOGY; TRADE CAPACITY-BUILDING; DEBT RELIEF;
HIV/AIDS ASSISTANCE; PROGRAMS TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S STATUS
AND MAINSTREAM GENDER IN NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, POLICIES,
AND BUDGETS; INTERNATIONAL FOOD ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING THE
GLOBAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION PILOT SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM;
AND THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT.

¶15. THE U.S. STATEMENT ALSO HIGHLIGHTED U.S. DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF FOOD SECURITY, INCLUDING CONTINUING TO INVEST IN A STRONG SAFETY NET, WORKING WITH CHARITIES, BUSINESSES, AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES. THE UNITED STATES SHARED HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE U.S. NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY PROGRESS REPORT AND NOTED THAT THE U.S. IS ON TRACK TO MEET ITS 2010 DOMESTIC FOOD SECURITY TARGET WITH REDUCTIONS IN THE PREVALENCE OF BOTH FOOD INSECURITY AND HUNGER AMONG AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS.

REPORT OF THE CFS - MILLENIUM SUMMIT GOAL INDICATORS

¶16. DUE TO THE PRESS OF TIME AND COMPETING NEGOTIATIONS, DISCUSSION WAS TRUNCATED AT THE CFS AND THE NORMAL THEMATIC DEBATE AND THE STANDING ITEM ON NUTRITION WERE POSTPONED UNTIL THE 2003 SESSION. THE SECRETARIAT-DRAFTED REPORT WAS DISCUSSED IN THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE AND ENDORSED BY MEMBERS, ALTHOUGH SOME PET ISSUES WERE ADDED FROM THE FLOOR IN THE FINAL PLENARY SESSION.

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CFS REPORT: ASSESSMENT OF THE WORLD FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

¶17. THE REPORT HIGHLIGHTS THE SLOW RATE OF DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF UNDERNOURISHED, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA. SPECIAL ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO THE PRECARIOUS FOOD SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. NEPAD RECEIVED SPECIAL MENTION AS A PROGRAM ELABORATED BY AFRICAN COUNTRIES THEMSELVES.

CFS REPORT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENTS

¶18. GOVERNMENTS WERE URGED TO: IMPROVE MONITORING OF FOOD INSECURITY AND USE THE INFORMATION TO TARGET VULNERABLE GROUPS; RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF WOMEN IN FOOD SECURITY; COOPERATE IN COMBATING CROSS BORDER ANIMAL AND PLANT DISEASE; DEVELOP RELEVANT NATIONAL POLICIES; RESPECT THE PRINCIPLE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO FOOD (COMMENT: AS USDEL WAS NOT REPRESENTED ON THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE, THE RIGHT TO FOOD LANGUAGE SHOWED UP IN THE FINAL REPORT. AT U.S. REQUEST, CANADIAN REP SOUGHT TO REMOVE THE REFERENCE TO RIGHT TO FOOD ON THE PLENARY FLOOR. WHEN

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THIS THREATENED TO DERAIL CONSENSUS ADOPTION OF THE
WFS5YL DECLARATION, CANADA (WITH U.S. ASSENT) DROPPED THE
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REQUEST. END COMMENT.)

CFS REPORT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FAO - COORDINATE ON
MDG INDICATORS AND IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

¶19. THE FAO WAS REQUESTED TO CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN
NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND ENHANCE
COLLABORATION ON GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS WITH OTHER
RELEVANT AGENCIES; COLLABORATE AND COORDINATE WITH OTHER
UN BODIES AND THE OECD TO AGREE ON THE SAME SET OF
INDICATORS FOR THE MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDG) WITH
SPECIAL ATTENTION PAID TO FAO'S MEASURE OF
UNDERNOURISHMENT AND WHO'S AND UNICEF'S MEASURES OF
UNDERWEIGHT AND MALNOURISHED CHILDREN AND CONTINUE TO
ASSESS THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON FOOD SECURITY AND
ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION.

¶20. THE FAO WAS ALSO REQUESTED TO SUBMIT A DRAFT
FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT TO ITS KEY TECHNICAL COMMITTEES FOR
FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY (COFI, COAG, AND
CFS) ON: 1) FAO'S STRATEGIES FOR POLICY ADVICE, CAPACITY
BUILDING, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ENSURING ACCESS TO
SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD; AND 2) CORRESPONDING
RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
LEVELS.

CFS REPORT: ISSUES ADDED FROM THE FLOOR

TRADE

¶21. AT THE REQUEST OF THE EU, A CHAPEAU WAS ADDED BEFORE
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CFS REPORT LANGUAGE URGING GOVERNMENTS ON PROVIDING
MARKET ACCESS, REDUCING EXPORT SUBSIDIES AND PROVIDING
SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR LDCS. THE CHAPEAU
READS: "IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DOHA MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE, AND WITHOUT PREJUDGING THE OUTCOME OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS, ETC."

FOOD QUALITY

¶22. AT THE REQUEST OF THE HUNGARIAN DELEGATE, THE REPORT
PUTS IN A PLUG FOR MORE REGIONAL FOOD SAFETY MEETINGS
ALONG THE LINES OF THE BUDAPEST FAO PAN-EUROPEAN FOOD
SAFETY AND QUALITY MEETING. THE NEW ZEALAND DELEGATE
EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE USE OF THE WORD
"QUALITY," NOTING THAT THE MEANING WAS UNCLEAR IN THE FAO
CONTEXT.

LIFDC CLASSIFICATION

¶23. AT THE 2001 CFS MEETING, THE LATIN AMERICAN REGION
ASKED THAT FAO REVIEW THE CRITERIA FOR LOW-INCOME FOOD
DEFICIT COUNTRIES (LIFDC) USED BY THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM
IN ALLOCATING DEVELOPMENT FOOD AID. THE LATIN GROUP
SOUGHT A LIBERALIZATION OF THE DEFINITION OF LIFDC
"LIBERALIZED" SO THAT COUNTRIES THAT HAVE GRADUATED FROM
THE LIFDC LIST, WHICH INCLUDES BOLIVIA, CUBA, AND
GUATEMALA, WOULD CONTINUE TO QUALIFY FOR FOOD AID AND
OTHERWISE LEVERAGE RESOURCES. AFTER EXTENSIVE DEBATE ON
THE FLOOR OF THE PLENARY, THE CFS REPORT LANGUAGE WENT
FORWARD UNCHANGED WITH LANGUAGE STATING ONLY THAT SEVERAL
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DELEGATES WERE SATISFIED WITH THE CONTENT OF THE FAO REVIEW OF THE LIFDC CRITERIA. (COMMENT: THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP ALSO SOUGHT TO INTRODUCE LANGUAGE ON LIFDC INTO THE DECLARATION, BUT WERE FORCED TO DROP IT DUE TO OPPOSITION FROM THE OECD COUNTRIES AND LACK OF SUPPORT FROM OTHER G-77.)

CFS GENERAL DEBATE ISSUES: U.S. FARM BILL

124. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FROM ALL REGIONS (SUCH AS BRAZIL FROM LATIN AMERICA, THAILAND FROM ASIA, AND SOUTH AFRICA) AND NEW ZEALAND RAISED CONCERN ABOUT U.S. AND EU DOMESTIC SUBSIDIES. MANY COUNTRIES OF THE EU AND G-77 AND OTHER OECD COUNTRIES ALSO SPECIFICALLY CRITICIZED THE NEW U.S. FARM BILL, FINDING REPORTED INCREASES IN U.S. TRADE-DISTORTING SUPPORT INCONSISTENT WITH U.S. CALLS FOR FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN DOMESTIC SUPPORT THROUGH WTO NEGOTIATIONS. THE CONCERN OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WAS THAT INCREASED SUBSIDIES WOULD DRIVE DOWN THE PRICE OF COMMODITIES LIKE COTTON AND WOOL WHERE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COULD BE COMPETITIVE.

COMMENT

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125. THE DECLARATION FOR THE WFS5YL SUCCESSFULLY
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INCORPORATES THE NEW CHALLENGES AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR DEALING WITH POVERTY AND HUNGER IN LINE WITH THE WFS TARGETS FOR 2015. IT ALSO REAFFIRMS THE ROLE OF THE CFS AS THE MONITORING BODY FOR THE WFS TARGETS. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE CFS'S LACKLUSTER PERFORMANCE OVER THE PAST FIVE PLUS YEARS, ASSISTING IT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK IS ONE OF THE IMPORTANT GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES AHEAD FOR USG AGENCIES DEALING WITH THE FAO. FURTHERMORE, THE CFS'S NEW TASK (IF SO ENDORSED BY THE FAO COUNCIL) TO OVERSEE NEGOTIATIONS OF VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD CANNOT HELP BUT DETRACT FROM ITS ABILITY TO CARRY OUT ITS CORE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MONITORING WFS IMPLEMENTATION. HEILEMAN

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